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ABSTRACT

This digest describes the traditional, new, and emerging points of access to the ERIC system: (1) traditional print access; (2) online access through commercial vendors; (3) CD-ROM; and (4) ERIC Digests Online. Also described are services offered by the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources (ERIC/IR) that provide access to the system--ERIC MICROsearch, the ERIC/IR Electronic Bulletin Board, and local mainframe access at Syracuse University using the PRISM interface. A list of sources and prices for ERIC publications, a directory of vendors, a comparison of CD-ROM systems, a sample PRISM search, and a directory of online access services are included. (MES)

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ACCESS POINTS TO ERIC: AN UPDATE

ERIC Digest
EDO-IR-88-10/12
by

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ERIC

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ERIC DIGEST

December 1988

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ACCESS POINTS TO ERIC: AN UPDATE

B. J. Vaughn and Michael B. Eisenberg

The need and demand for educational information continues to grow. Researchers, teachers, administrators, community members, and students are all actively engaged in seeking and using information related to education. The ERIC system has attempted to respond to this increasing demand by offering new access points to the existing ERIC database as well as alternative information resources aimed at a range of users. This digest summarizes the traditional, new, and emerging points of access to the ERIC system.

Traditional Print Access

Manual, non-computerized access to the ERIC database is available through two printed indexes: *Resources in Education* (RIE) and *Current Index to Journals in Education* (CIJE). RIE is an index to reports, papers, conference proceedings, bibliographies, manuals, handbooks, state-of-the-art studies, and other materials that do not appear in journals. The full text of most documents listed in RIE is reproduced and made available on microfiche. CIJE is an index to articles that appear in education journals. RIE and CIJE are published monthly and cumulated in semiannual indexes. These indexes are usually available wherever an ERIC microfiche collection is located. Many libraries and education laboratories and centers also maintain collections of the printed indexes even when they do not have the ERIC microfiche collection. The user who does manual searches of ERIC comes to know what the system has to offer and how to locate desired materials, knowledge which can be invaluable when using more sophisticated approaches, such as online searching, for more complex computerized searches.

Online Access Through Commercial Vendors

Computer access to RIE and CIJE is provided by the major online vendors: Dialog, BRS Information Technologies, and Orbit. Searching through online vendors is generally done by librarians or other expert search intermediaries. However, online vendors are becoming increasingly interested in providing various end-user groups with direct access to ERIC and other databases. Targeted end-user groups include researchers, students, faculty, and others with personal computers at home. Vendors are also interested

ERIC Publications and Their Sources/Prices

Current Index to Journals in Education (CIJE)	Oryx Press 2214 North Central at Encanto Phoenix, AZ 85004-1483 1-800-457-ORYX	Monthly subscription – U.S. (12 issues) foreign Semiannual cumulations U.S. (2 issues) foreign	$207.00 250.00 198.00 235.00
Resources in Education (RIE)	Superintendent of Documents U.S. Govt. Printing Office Washington, DC 20402 (202) 275-3054	Monthly subscription – U.S. (12 issues) foreign Semiannual index – U.S. (2 issues) foreign	66.00 82.50 20.00 25.00
ERIC Tapes	ERIC Processing Facility ORI, Inc., Suite 550 2440 Research Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 590-1420	RIE 1966-present, CIJE 1969-present. Files may be purchased individually or as a collection. Please contact the ERIC Facility for more information. Prices per tape start as low as	75.00
ERIC TOOLS	ERIC Processing Facility ORI, Inc., Suite 550 2440 Research Blvd. Rockville, MD 20850 (301) 590-1420	*RIE Title Index, Identifier Authority List, Source Directory,* and *ERIC Processing Manual.* Documents are available individually and on annual subscription. Please contact the ERIC Facility for more information and prices.	

ERIC Microfiche and Online Access

ERIC Microfiche	ERIC Document Reproduction Service (EDRS) 3900 Wheeler Ave. Alexandria, VA 22304-6409 1-800-227-ERIC	Annual subscription to RIE microfiche, approximately ERIC Starter Kit: Combination of microfiche indexes, printed listings, hardware and support services. Cumulative Indexes to RIE, 1966–present. Cumulative document resumes from RIE, 1966–present. *Directory of ERIC Information Service Providers.* Microfiche reader support service Annual update service	$1,400.00 440.00 440.00 101.00
BRS Information Technologies	BRS Search Service 1200 Route 7 Latham, NY 12110 1-800-345-4BRS	Annual fee for password ERIC connect hour Online type full record per citation Offline print per citation	75.00 25.00 .15 .10
• BRS After Dark	BRS Search Service	Available EST 6pm-4am M-F, 6am-2am Sat., 9am-4am Sun. 105 databases including ERIC. Connect hour Online type full record per citation No offline print available	 $8.00 .03
Dialog	Dialog Information Service 3460 Hillview Ave. Palo Alto, CA 94304 1-800-3-DIALOG	Annual maintenance fee ERIC connect hour Online type full record per citation Offline print per citation	25.00 30.00 .10 .04
• Classmate Service	Dialog Information Service	Part of Classroom Instruction Program ERIC connect hour Online type full record per citation No offline print available; available to educators for students only, all day.	 15.00 .10
• Knowledge Index	Dialog Information Service	Available EST 6pm–5am M–Th, 6pm–midnight Friday. Designed for end-users. 65 databases.	
Orbit Search Service	Pergamon Orbit Infoline 8000 West Park Dr. McLean, VA 22102 1-800-45ORBIT	Annual fee for one password ERIC connect hour Online type per citation Offline print per citation	35.00 35.00 .10 .14
Einstein	Addison Wesley Information Services 2725 Sand Hill Road Menlo Park, CA 94205 1-800-227-1936	90 popular databases used to teach online searching to high school students. Sold directly to state/district schools and administrators. Per search charge plus telecomm. charge per minute Fixed price per search telecomm. charge included. Available on Compuserve.	 3.25 .12 4.50

in providing services to end-users in schools, often through library media centers. Special programs targeted at these user populations include BRS After Dark, Einstein, and Dialog's Classmate.

CD-ROM (Compact Disk–Read Only Memory)

An alternative to remote access through online utilities is to purchase ERIC on CD-ROM. An earlier ERIC Digest, *ERIC on CD-ROM: Update* (ED-IR-88-1), lists advantages and disadvantages of CD-ROM use. This digest is available free of charge from the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources (include a self-addressed, stamped enveloped with a request). Currently, there are three CD-ROM versions of the ERIC database available commercially. A comparison of these three systems is provided below.

ERIC Digests Online

ERIC Digests Online is a special project of the ERIC Clearinghouse on Early Childhood Education. Digests are two-page reports on topics of prime current interest in education. Each of the 16 ERIC Clearinghouses provides these reports. They are targeted specifically for teachers, administrators, policymakers, and other practitioners, but are useful to the general community as well. They are designed to provide an overview of information on a given topic, with references providing sources of more detailed information. The original printed form is available from the Clearinghouse which produced it. The ERIC Digest Online (EDO) file is a full-text database, and at least 10 new digests are added to the database each month. As of October 1988, there were 360 digests available.

Work is currently underway to make the EDO database available through Dialog and GTE Education Services (2021 K Street NW, Washington, DC 20006; 202-835-7300).

PRINTED SOURCES

Over the past few years, information about ERIC has appeared in various standard reference tools of the information profession. For example, *Books in Print* lists the ERIC/IR Clearinghouse as an entry to the ERIC system and provides a contact for information concerning publications; the *Vertical File Index* is informed about free and inexpensive ERIC publications. These efforts provide greater access to the ERIC database for teachers, library media specialists, public librarians, and parents.

In addition, the ERIC Clearinghouses inform the professional associations in their respective scope areas on a regular basis of the materials they are producing. This material is often placed in information packets at conferences, and in offices of members of these associations.

Education editors of nationally distributed newspapers are sent press releases of ERIC/IR and informed about the system's projects and publications. Popular parenting magazines, computer magazines with a family emphasis, and other education journals provide information about ERIC to the general public.

ERIC MICROsearch

The ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources (ERIC/IR) continues to provide microcomputer-based access to ERIC through its MICROsearch program. ERIC MICROsearch is a software program that runs on the IBM and Apple families of microcomputers. It allows the user to search selected portions of the ERIC database that have been stored on floppy disks. Every three months, ERIC/IR downloads its own input to the ERIC database in the subject areas of library/information science and educational technology. Each

Comparison of CD-ROM Systems

Features	DIALOG	OCLC	SilverPlatter
Current disc	1980–present; combined file of RIE and CIJE on one disc.	1982–present; separate files of RIE and CIJE.	1983–present; combined file of RIE and CIJE.
Archival discs	1966–1979 on one disc; RIE & CIJE in combined file.	RIE 1967-1976; RIE 1977-1981; CIJE 1969-1981; on separate discs.	RIE & CIJE 1966-1975; RIE & CIJE 1976-1982; on two discs.
Hardware	IBM PC, or compatible. 512K RAM (640 recommended hard disk storage with minimum 1MB free space). Hayes compatible modem. Color monitor. Printer.	IBM PC, or compatible. 512K RAM. Printer.	IBM PC, or compatible. 512K RAM. Printer.
CD drives	Any CD-ROM drive that supports Micro-SOFT extension version 2.00 or higher.	Philips, SONY, Hitachi, or Amdec.	Hitachi, SONY, Philips, or Toshiba.

subject area diskette contains between 350 and 400 citations of the most recent entries in the database. These database disks are searched using a system that provides an easy to use interface with three searchable indexes: Basic (including descriptors and keywords from the descriptor and identifier fields); Descriptor (containing the ERIC controlled vocabulary); and Authors. The Boolean operators AND, OR, and NOT can be used to define search strategies. Many sites use the demonstration disks and subscription service to teach online searching of the ERIC database without the costs of telephone lines and vendors' service charges.

The ERIC/IR Electronic Bulletin Board

Another access service provided by ERIC/IR is a computerized bulletin board system. This system provides a forum for teachers and other education professionals to express their concerns, ask questions, and/or submit ideas, and to receive feedback from others in their field as well as from experts at the ERIC/IR Clearinghouse. Users can leave a question (e.g., Does anyone have any good source materials that can be used with handicapped adults?). Others using the Bulletin Board are free to comment or express ideas, give answers from their own experience, or offer to share source materials. The Bulletin Board offers Bulletins, File Transfers, and Electronic Mail. The Bulletins provide brief descriptions of Clearinghouse activities such as ERIC on CD-ROM, ERIC search services, ERIC MICROsearch, free ERIC publications, and other ERIC/IR publications. The ERIC Bulletin Board maintains a list of public domain files that can be downloaded, and users are encouraged to upload any public domain files they want to share with other bulletin board users.

Local Mainframe Access

An alternative to providing computer access to ERIC through vendors is to offer local access through a mainframe computer system. Computer tapes of the ERIC database are available from the ERIC Processing and Reference Facility. Arrangements need to be made locally for loading the database onto a mainframe computer system as well as for providing access to the database via information retrieval software. Any university, academic library, education laboratory or center, or institution can set up this service on a mainframe computer starting with the purchase of the ERIC tapes.

Syracuse University, for example, uses an information retrieval system called SPIRES with a simplified user interface called PRISM to offer mainframe access to a number of databases. Developed at Stanford University, SPIRES/PRISM provides a menu approach to access that end-users are able to use with minimal training. PRISM allows for Boolean searching and continuing refinement of searches. Through PRISM, Syracuse University students and faculty have direct access through the university mainframe to more than four years of the entire ERIC database, and the database files are updated each quarter. Anyone in the Syracuse community with an account on the mainframe at Academic Computing Services can access this information using a wired-in terminal or a microcomputer with communications software and full screen capability.

A sample ERIC session using PRISM is shown below.

Summary

The ERIC system strives to improve access and meet the needs of different constituencies through all these access points, and further efforts are promised for the future. Most significantly, a new component called ACCESS ERIC will be added to the ERIC system in 1989. Its purpose is to provide a central point for ERIC users to ask questions and obtain information. It is hoped that all the access points noted above will be more consistently used and that information will be more widely disseminated by the marketing and publicity efforts of this new entity.

PRISM Search of ERIC

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ERIC Search  01/29/88  10:19
Search:  DESC CHILD# AND TELEVISION  -Record 7 of 238

Accession: EJ354579
Title: Young Children's Memory for Televised Stories: Effects of Importance.
Journal: Child Development; v58 n2 p453-63 Apr 1987
Author: Lorch, Elizabeth Pugzles; And Others
Pub Date: 1987
Abstract: Effects of the importance of plot-relevant information on 4- to 6-year-old children's memory for
four televised stories was examined in two experiments. Free recall and cued recall of idea units rated for
importance by college students were assessed.  (Author/BN)
Major Descriptors:  Memory; Recall (Psychology); Recognition (Psychology); Television Research; Young
Children
Other Descriptors: Cognitive Development; Educational Television
-This record continues next page; you may press RETURN to continue display

To see records: type DISPLAY followed by a record number.
To see another full record: type DISPLAY FULL followed by a record number.
To begin a new search: type FIND
To choose a different file: type SELECT
YOUR RESPONSE:
f1=Help      2=Find       f3-Select    f4=Display    f9=Print      f10=Option
Esc-chr:^)   help:^)?     port:1       speed: 9600   parity: even  echo:rem VT102

ERIC         Search                                  01/29/88  10:19
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ERIC/IR Special Projects

MICROsearch/Apple	Information Resources Pubs. 030 Huntington Hall Syracuse University Syracuse, NY 13244-2340 (315) 443-3640	Demonstration set includes program disk, manual, and a database disk (please indicate subject—either library/information science or educational technology). Contact ERIC/IR for subscription prices.	$20.00
MICROsearch/IBM	Information Resources Pubs. 030 Huntington Hall Syracuse University Syracuse, NY 13244-2340 (315) 443-3640	Demonstration set includes program disk, manual, and a database disk (please indicate subject, either library/information science or education technology). Contact ERIC/IR for subscription prices.	49.00
ERIC/IR Bulletin Board	ERIC/IR Clearinghouse 030 Huntington Hall Syracuse University Syracuse, NY 13244-2340 (315) 443-1049	For further information, contact Jane Klausmeier Janis at ERIC/IR: (315) 443-3640.	
ERIC/Prism/SU	SU contact: Astrid Pettersen (315) 443-1145	Please see ERIC Tapes, p. 1.	

This digest was prepared for the ERIC Clearinghouse on Information Resources by B. J. Vaughn, Acquisitions Director, and Michael Eisenberg, Associate Director. December 1988.

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